

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 39 as follows:

35. (Previously Added) A method of altering an amount of an unsaturated fatty acid in a seed of a plant comprising decreasing a fatty acid desaturase activity in the seed by transforming the plant with a nucleic acid comprising a sequence which encodes a mutant form of a fatty acid desaturase that is catalytically inactive.

36. (Previously Added) The method of claim 35, wherein said plant is transformed with a nucleic acid comprising a sequence which encodes a dominant negative mutant of a fatty acid desaturase.

37. (Previously Added) The method of claim 35, wherein said plant is transformed with a nucleic acid comprising a sequence which encodes a mutant fatty acid desaturase in which one or more essential histidine residues have been mutated.

38. (Previously Added) The method of claim 35, wherein said plant is selected from the group consisting of rapeseed, *Crambe*, *Brassica jucea*, canola, flax, sunflower, safflower, cotton, cuphea, soybean, peanut, coconut, oil palm and corn.

39. (Presently Amended) A method of altering an amount of an unsaturated fatty acid comprising

- (a) transforming a plant cell with a nucleic acid comprising a sequence which encodes **a catalytically inactive desaturase which is** a dominant negative mutant of a fatty acid desaturase;
- (b) growing a seed-bearing plant from the transformed plant cell of step (a); and
- (c) identifying a seed from the plant of step (b) with the altered amount of the unsaturated fatty acid in the seed.

40. (Previously Added) The method of claim 39, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a sequence which encodes the dominant negative mutant of a fatty acid desaturase in which one or more essential histidine residues have been mutated.

41. (Previously Added) The method of claim 39, wherein said plant is selected from the group consisting of rapeseed, *Crambe*, *Brassica jucea*, canola, flax, sunflower, safflower, cotton, cuphea, soybean, peanut, coconut, oil palm and corn.